

Harkin-Led Investments Have Expanded Job Corps in Iowa & Around the Country

"By providing important education and career and technical training for Iowans, Jobs Corps centers help boost local economic development efforts. The Ottumwa Jobs Corps Center will give Iowans the opportunity to sharpen their skills close to home and it will also provide local businesses with an increasingly talented workforce." – Harkin announcing the new Ottumwa center, February 2007.

"As someone who has watched this project grow from an idea to a blueprint to a standing building, I can say with great pride that this is a great investment for Ottumwa and for our state as a whole." – Harkin statement on the Center, June 2011.



August 9, 2009: Labor Secretary Hilda Solis joins Senator Harkin to break ground on the Ottumwa Job Corps Center.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (the LHHS subcommittee), Harkin has led the effort to support new Job Corps centers, **securing more than \$100 million since 2003.**

In 2015, two new centers are scheduled to open in New Hampshire and Wyoming. With the addition of these two centers, there will be **at least one Job Corps center in all 50 States.** This is a critical achievement in the program's goal to help meet the employment needs of every region and sector of the national economy. Currently, there are 125 centers in 48 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Tom Harkin's commitment to Job Corps, a timeline of action:

Fiscal Year 2004:

Harkin included language in the Conference Report (November 2003) recognizing New Hampshire as one of two States without a Job Corps center and expressing interest in Iowa being considered for expansion of the Job Corps program.

Fiscal Year 2005:

The Senate report (September 2004) included language stating that additional funds have been provided to begin establishing new Job Corps centers under the guidance provided in FY 2004.

The Conference report (November 2004) provided \$10 million for establishing additional Job Corps Centers under the guidance provided in FY 2004.

Fiscal Year 2006:

President Bush's budget proposed to rescind the FY 2005 new Job Corps money, along with an additional \$15 million in the construction account. At Harkin's direction, the Senate report (July 2005) rejected that rescission and provided an additional \$10 million for new Job Corps Centers. Harkin protested when the Department of Labor (DOL) determined that they could not move ahead establishing an Iowa center because the budget would eliminate the funding. The end result was a Conference Report (December 2005) that rejected the rescission and provided an additional \$8 million for new Job Corps centers.

Fiscal year 2007:

President Bush's budget proposed to rescind the FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds, as well as \$57 million in additional construction funds. Harkin's Senate LHHS report (July 2006) rejected that rescission and provided another \$10 million for new Job Corps centers.

Though the DOL once again argued that they could not move forward because of the proposed rescission, Harkin urged them to move forward. As a result, DOL received four proposals for new locations for new Job Corps centers.

The Continuing Resolution (January 2007) included \$8 million for new centers and rejected the proposed rescission of \$75 million in construction funds.

In February 2007, the DOL announced three new centers in Ottumwa, Iowa; New Hampshire, and Wyoming.

Fiscal Year 2008:

The Senate report (June 2007) provided an additional \$15 million in new center construction funds.

The Conference report included \$13 million for continued development of the new centers.

Fiscal Year 2009:

The 2009 Conference Report included \$15 million for continued development of new centers, \$5 million more than the President's budget request.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided an additional \$250 million for Job Corps, directing that at least 85 percent, or \$212.5 million, must be used for construction. From these funds, DOL used \$23 million for the contract to Grooms & Co. Construction (of Ottumwa) to build the Ottumwa Job Corps Center.

Fiscal Year 2010

The 2010 Conference Report included an additional \$5 million to support construction of the Ottumwa Job Corps center, in addition to initiate a competition for the Wyoming and New Hampshire centers.

Fiscal Year 2011

The Senate report (2011) included \$4 million in operations funds for the Ottumwa center to open in 2011.

Fiscal Year 2012

The Conference Report includes sufficient funds to support operations of the Ottumwa center .

Fiscal Year 2013

The Continuing Resolution provided \$7.7 million to support Ottumwa.

Fiscal Year 2014

The Omnibus provides \$1.58 billion, an increase of \$91 million, fully replacing the sequester cut and providing an additional \$12 million for Job Corps center operations. The funding will allow Job Corps to enroll more students across the country as well as allow the new centers in New Hampshire and Wyoming to open in 2015. *(Specific funding levels for the centers have not yet been determined.)*